

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 5-6, 8-9, 11, and 13.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Marked-up Copy".

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract page is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

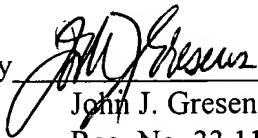
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

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By   
John J. Gresens  
Reg. No. 33,112

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3. A medium to high voltage power cable as claimed in [claim 1 or 2,] claim 1, wherein the composition is hydrophilic.
5. A medium to high voltage power cable as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, wherein the crystalline part of the polymer is at most 60% by weight.
6. A medium to high voltage power cable as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbyl radical in formula I is an alkyl substituent with 10-18 carbon atoms.
8. A composition as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, wherein the polymer composition includes 0.0001 - 3% by weight of silanol condensation catalyst.
9. A process of preparing a medium to high voltage power cable according to [any one of claims 1 - 8,] claim 1, in which a conductor is surrounded in order by an inner semi-conducting layer, an insulating layer comprising a crosslinkable polymer with hydrolysable silane group, and an outer semi-conducting layer to form a cable, characterised in that the cable is crosslinked in the presence of steam at a superatmospheric pressure.

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11. A process according to [claim 9 or 10,] claim 9, wherein the crosslinking is carried out at a pressure of 0.2 - 2.5 MPa.

13. A process according to [any one of claims 9 - 12,] claim 9, wherein the crosslinking is carried out in the presence of saturated steam.

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